

those on genital candidiasis and antifungal agents.

Oral and oesophageal candidiasis are well and clearly described, the relatively few paragraphs here on HIV and AIDS reminding us that there are other causes. Diagnosis of oesophageal candidal infection is often difficult without endoscopy but the authors emphasise the valuable empiricism of several days fluconazole. Assessment of response to treatment will often establish a retrospective diagnosis.

Jack Sobel has contributed an excellent succinct chapter on all aspects of genital candidiasis, ranging from theories concerning pathogenesis to practical aspects of diagnosis. He describes his successful use of long term oral ketoconazole in recurrent vaginal candidiasis but most of us in the UK are wary of its toxicity, in particular hepatitis, though this is rare. We prefer various miconazole or clotrimazole regimens and hope that in future years a combination of fluconazole or itraconazole and vaginal therapy will become the successful norm. Sobel correctly states "*the contribution of sexual transmission to the pathogenesis of [Candida] infection remains unknown*". However, there is a statement in an earlier chapter (p. 40), "Genital candidiasis, is usually considered a sexually transmitted disease".

Gerald Bodey, the editor, provides a good summary of antifungal agents in the final chapter. Topical and systemic agents in current use are discussed including amphotericin B, flucytosine, the azoles, ketoconazole and the newer systemics fluconazole and itraconazole.

This text covers the whole field of candidiasis well. It would be a useful addition to a reference library. The book would be enhanced by a chapter on candida infections in HIV and AIDS, including in this a discussion on prophylactic regimens for oral, oesophageal and vaginal candidiasis.

MICHAEL J BALSDON

A Colour Atlas of Diseases of the Vulva. CM Ridley, JD Oriel, AJ Robinson. London, Chapman & Hall, 1992 (Pp 109). £60.00). ISBN 0-412-36520-0.

There has long been a need for an atlas of vulval diseases and the publication of this book is most welcome. Nearly 300 colour photographs are displayed within its covers, showing examples of both common as well as some relatively rare vulval disorders. Approximately 50 of the photographs illustrate histological features, infecting organisms or the skin changes which may accompany vulval disease.

The seven chapters cover the following topics: general principles; infections; non-infective, non-neoplastic conditions; tumour-like lesions and cysts, tumours; miscellaneous conditions; childhood lesions; child sexual abuse. In addition there are helpful lists of diagnoses grouped under broad headings of clinical features and symptoms, and appendices of the histological classification of vulval dystrophy and classification of vulvodynia. The principles of examination of the vulva and possible relevant investigations are briefly discussed, but further practical details would be needed by a practitioner embarking on the investigation of a patient. It would have been helpful to have shown examples of vulval appearance in black and Asian skin in addition to that in white skin.

The range of photographs covering vulval abnormalities is extensive, usually with several examples of the more common disorders. This is clearly an important feature in, for example, lichen sclerosus et atrophicus where the clinical manifestations may be very variable. Vulval soreness and irritation are often initially thought to be due to candidosis, until proved otherwise and so I was somewhat disappointed to find relatively few illustrations of this condition. The quality of the photographs is generally good, but there are some which are out of focus or of an odd colour.

As with many medical colour atlases, striking a balance between the value of the visual content and the written text is a difficult challenge. In this atlas, the text is brief, but does venture beyond points of observation into aetiology and therapy. As a result, therapeutic suggestions are often single and dogmatic.

This is not a book to leave out on your coffee table at home, but it is a most useful book to have at hand in the clinic. It would be best used in conjunction with a more detailed text but certainly has a place in aiding diagnosis or consideration of possible diagnoses. Although the preface suggests that this is a book for genitomedical physicians, gynaecologists and dermatologists, I would also, and perhaps particularly, suggest that it would be a most valuable acquisition in paediatric departments and general practitioners' surgeries.

JANE C STERLING

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Correction

Engelkens H J H *et al*: The localisation of treponemes and characterisation of the inflammatory infiltrate in skin biopsies from patients with primary or secondary syphilis, or early infectious yaws (*Genitourin Med* 1993;69:102-7). In table 2, for cases of secondary syphilis (line $T_h > T_o$), the correct figure is 6 instead of 66.